

POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS BULLETIN

THE CLINICAL CENTER

Medical Administrative Series

M02-1

8 March 2002

MANUAL TRANSMITTAL SHEET

SUBJECT: Credentialing Physician Assistants at the Clinical Center

1. Explanation of Material Transmitted: This issuance transmits the policy of the Medical Executive Committee concerning the credentialing of Physician Assistants providing patient care services at the Clinical Center. It clarifies the credentialing requirements in relation to practice agreements and licensure. The policy was approved by the Medical Executive Committee at its meeting on 5 March 2002.
2. Material Superseded: None
3. Filing Instructions: Medical Staff Section

Remove: None

Insert: No. M02-1, dated 8 March 2002

DISTRIBUTION

Physicians, Dentists and Other Practitioners Participating in
Patient Care

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SUBJECT: Credentialing Physician Assistants at the Clinical Center

PURPOSE

To set forth the policy of the Medical Executive Committee regarding the credentialing of Physician Assistants providing direct patient care at the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center.

POLICY

All physician assistants providing patient care services at the Warren G. Magnuson (CC) shall exercise only those clinical privileges granted by the Director, CC or designee.

TYPES OF PRIVILEGES

Privileges are issued to candidates after their application for membership on the Adjunct Medical Staff has been approved.

Full: The candidate has been judged competent to carry out all patient care responsibilities within the professional scope of his/her license as specified in the delineation of clinical privileges and the written practice agreement. The term of appointment is two years.

Interim: The candidate requires immediate patient care approval while an application for full privileges is being processed. Interim privileges are granted for no longer than 45 days and are not renewable. (See M90-9, "Interim and Temporary Privileges," for details.)

Temporary: Temporary privileges are granted only in very unusual situations. They are granted for no more than five days and may not routinely be renewed. Under extraordinary circumstances it may be necessary to grant temporary privileges on more than one occasion to a specific individual.

Emergency: When serious harm could happen to a patient from a delay in delivering immediate treatment, any member of the staff approved to deliver patient care services at the CC shall be permitted to do everything possible to help that patient within the scope of his/her license or certification, using every facility of the CC, regardless of staff status or clinical privileges.

General Considerations

Physician Assistants qualified by education, training, experience, and evidence of clinical competence to provide patient care services at the CC, are eligible for membership on the Adjunct Medical Staff. Clinical privileges for these individuals are granted by the Director, CC, after recommendation by the Credentials Committee and Medical Executive Committee.

Physician Assistants applying for membership on the Adjunct Medical Staff must submit a complete application package identical to that required for membership on the active medical staff as specified in M90-5, "Credentialing Health Practitioners at the Clinical Center." Physician Assistants must be licensed in the State of Maryland and provide a written practice agreement describing the scope of duties and privileges required. The agreement is an internal document written between the Physician Assistant and his/her supervising physician, who must be a member of the CC Senior Medical Staff.

The written practice agreement documents the scope of duties, including privileges, agreed upon by the supervising physician and the Physician Assistant and must be accompanied by an approval memo from the Institute Clinical Director or CC Department Head. Changes to the duties and/or privileges outlined in the agreement are considered a re-delineation of privilege and must be approved by the Credentials Committee, Medical Executive Committee, and Director, CC. The agreement does not need to be filed with the State of Maryland. The original should be submitted with the

credentialing package and copies maintained by the supervising physician and Physician Assistant.

The following components must be covered in the Physician Assistant's practice agreement:

- A. Physician Assistant Information
- B. Supervising Physician Information
- C. Physician Assistant Functions/Scope of Practice
- D. Physician Assistant – Physician Relationship
- E. Authorization

Maryland State Law allows granting of certain prescriptive authority to physician assistants. The Clinical Center shall also give prescriptive and order writing authority to Physician Assistants granted clinical privileges as members of the CC Adjunct Medical Staff. The categories of orders that they can author shall be defined in each Physician Assistant's written practice agreement. In addition, orders within the scope of that practice agreement, written by a Physician Assistant, shall not require countersignature.

However, any order written by a Physician Assistant in an area of practice outside their written agreement, shall be entered into the Medical Information System (MIS) as an "agent for" the authorized prescriber on the CC medical staff who directed the original order.